of pre-matriculation scholarships, (iv) release of funds under Centrally sponsored scheme for construction of hostel building of OBC students; and

(b) the present stage of consideration of these proposals and by when the approval of Government and release of fund is likely to be expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The Government of Karanataka has submitted proposals seeking financial assistance under the Schemes of Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC Students and Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls during 2002-03.

(b) The position regarding release of grant is as under:

(i) **Pre-matric Scholarships:** The committed liability of the State Government exceeds the proposed expenditure during 2002-03. Therefore, a grant is not admissible under the scheme for 2002-03.

(ii) **Post-matric Scholarships:** A grant of Rs. 2.12 crores has already been released during 2002-03.

(iii) **Construction of Hostels:** A grant of Rs. 2.64 crore has already been released during 2002-03.

Status of the outreach programme of the NIOH

1206. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the outreach programme of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH);

(b) whether NIOH is embarking in activities outside Kolkata;

(c) if so, the details of such work; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve the expertise at the NIOH?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) The National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata, has

extended its outreach programmes with a view to serving larger number of persons with disabilities. During the current financial year 29 camps were conducted outside Kolkata for assessment and identifcation of disabled persons and distribution of aids and appliances. The Institute has also organized HRD activities and awareness-generation programmes during the year at outside venues. Rehabilitation services were also provided through NIOH's regional centre at Dehradun, District Disability and Rehabilitation Centres at Tezpur, Dimapur, Shillong, Ranchi, Darbhanga, Leh and Udhampur and Composite Regional Centre, Srinagar.

The staff at NIOH are being encouraged to upgrade their qualifications. Besides, infrastructural facilities are also being improved so as to improve the training imparted to students attending regular programmes and the quality of rehabilitation services delivered.

Implementation of Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme

1207. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has started implementing Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP) in various tribal blocks of the State, as reported in the New India Express, dated the 1st December, 2002;

(b) if so, the total package for the scheme and the share of the Centre and State for this welfare package; and

(c) the progress of the scheme and the details of various works that would be carried out under this welfare scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP) Loan Agreement has been signed between the Government of India and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on 18th December, 2002.